



***New Frontiers Program 2009
Concept Study Kickoff Meeting***

**Technical, Management, Cost, and
Other Factors**

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Concept Study Overview

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- **The concept study is intended to provide NASA with more definitive information regarding cost, risk, and feasibility of the investigation, as well as detailed plans for Education and Public Outreach (E/PO), optional Student Collaborations (SC), and Small/Disadvantaged Business (SDB) subcontracting.**
- **The product of the concept study is a Concept Study Report (CSR).**
 - Evaluation of the CSR is a major part of Step 2 in the acquisition process
 - Unless science objectives change during the Concept Study, evaluation of the CSR will focus on the implementation issues in the above bullet.
 - The evaluation team will visit the investigation team's chosen site, to hear oral briefings and, if necessary, clarification of material in the CSR.
- **The *Criteria and Guidelines for the Phase A Concept Study* (“the Guidelines”) is the governing document.**
 - All program constraints, guidelines, definitions, and requirements specified in the New Frontiers 2009 AO are applicable to the concept study unless noted otherwise, explicitly, in this document.
 - Part I of this document describes the evaluation criteria
 - Part II provides guidelines for preparing the CSR



NPR 7120.5D NID

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- **NPR 7120.5D, NASA Spaceflight Program and Project Requirements, is being revised.**
- **Until the revision is finished, an interim version designated NPR 7120.5D NID (NASA Interim Directive) is to be used, and the Guidelines refer to it several times.**
 - Section X of the New Frontiers Program Library provides a link, identified as NPR 7120.5D NID, to this interim document.
 - The interim document bears the designation NM 7120-81, but it is one and the same with NPR 7120.5D NID. Don't ask why.



Submittal of CSRs

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- **CSRs are due by January 28, 2011, NLT 4 p.m. EST.**
 - Signed Original and 90 copies.
 - No late changes or errata sheets, no exceptions.
 - NRESS address and contact information is in the Introduction of the Guidelines.



Evaluation

- **Evaluation of the CSR is very similar to evaluation of the Step 1 proposal.**
 - The evaluation criteria and their factors specified in Section 7.2 of the AO apply fully to the CSR.
 - Scientific Merit of the Investigation (unless science objectives change during the Concept Study, this criterion will not be re-evaluated)
 - Scientific Implementation Merit and Feasibility of the Investigation
 - Feasibility of Mission Implementation, Including Cost Risk
 - All factors related to mission success and cost realism will be considered in greater depth of detail.
 - Additional factors that are not described in the AO and were not evaluated for Step 1 proposals (e.g. “Quality of Plans for Core E/PO Program”) will be evaluated.



Evaluation

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- **At the outcome of the evaluation, technical merit and feasibility of the proposed investigation will be represented by adjectival scores of Low Risk, Medium Risk, or High Risk, with 9 possible grades.**
- **Similarly, the feasibility of the proposed approach for mission implementation, including cost risk, will be represented by adjectival scores of Low Risk, Medium Risk, or High Risk, with 9 possible grades.**



Site Visits

- **Site Visits will be used to hear oral briefings and, if necessary, to clarify material in the CSR. Information from these briefings and clarifications will be part of the evaluation.**
- **Target date for site visits is the time-frame March 14 - 18, 2011.**
- **Sites to be determined by the PI/Proposal Team and coordinated with the TMC Chair, Jay Bergstralh, by email at jay.t.bergstralh@nasa.gov or by telephone at 757-864-2968.**
 - Briefings at each Site Visit will be limited to 8 hours with 1 additional hour for an optional site tour. (Suggest a schedule of 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. including 1 hour lunch).
 - All Site Visit presentations/briefings shall be in a plenary session with all TMC Evaluation Team members attending - no splinter sessions.
 - Written questions will be submitted to the PI/Proposal Team approximately 8:30 a.m. EDT 5 days before the Site Visit. All teams will have the same lead time.
 - Unless NASA requests otherwise, only the information presented during the Site Visit and contained in the CSR will be considered during the evaluation.



Draft New Frontiers Downselect Schedule/Evaluation Flow

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